

February 9, 1910.

Mr. D. K. Pearsons,

Hinsdale, Ill.

My dear Mr. Pearsons:

Every room and every space in our two dormitories for boys is occupied. We can not possibly crowd another boy in. Next fall we shall receive at least forty more boys than we graduate in June. That is conservative: I really believe we shall have 55 more. If we could provide room for them, in two years we could have 100 more boys than can be taken care of in our present accommodations. Our last dormitory for boys was built in 1861, and for seven years we have gained 20 students a year, and the last two years we have gained 55.

We are as badly off for recitation rooms. We have now 19 Professors and only 13 recitation rooms. Next year we shall have 21 teachers, and only 13 rooms. It is hard to know where to put the classes, and we have to keep recitations going until five o'clock, and also Saturdays, when the boys need that time for earning money.

Will you give me \$50,000 if I will raise \$150,000 additional? I want it to build a dormitory for boys, and to provide more recitation rooms. If you will give me until July 1, 1911, I know I can get the money, and I can

have the dormitory ready for that fall. I am in better shape to get \$150,000 now than I was to get the \$75,000 when you made the offer of \$25,000. I would rather you would make me work for it, since it enables me to get other friends, and helps greatly in stirring interest.

60 per cent of our students are from Vermont, and the rest are from plain homes of northern New England and New York. It is out of the question for these boys and girls to go to the expensive colleges all around us. We still give table board at \$3 a week, and propose to keep it so. Our rooms are less than \$1 a week, with heat and light. I am going to put in my life to build and preserve a plain, simple, but good college, for the old Vermont stock. I have no other ambition, and I will not be turned aside. Within a year I have put away suggestions of two \$6000 a year pulpits. My life is in this college: you gave me my first lift, and I turn to you with courage for my second great effort.

We shall have the new building for girls ready, on its magnificent new site - 35 acres - for next fall. We want to call it Parsons Hall, if you will let us. We shall have 100 girls on that hill, and the building will be full.

The past year I have made myself a missionary to the people of Vermont. I have spoken in 70 towns since July, and have tried to lift up with all my might. This work turns the thought of the Vermont people to our college as never before. We have over 400 applications for catalogues for next year. I appeal to you to help me provide a place for them. With the endowment we had and our new appropriation from the State we are fairly well off for Professors, but we are mighty weak in buildings. With all my strength I appeal to you for help, and I do not want anything better than your old proportion, \$1 to \$3.

Faithfully yours,